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Report of the Special Rapporteur on the human rights of internally displaced persons

Note by the Secretariat

The present report provides an account of the activities undertaken by the Special Rapporteur on the human rights of internally displaced persons in key priority areas identified by the Special Rapporteur, including challenges relating to the human rights of internally displaced persons that remain unresolved, including the integration of humanitarian and development responses to displacement, the vulnerability of marginalized groups to displacement and the importance of consultation with and the participation of displaced persons in the search for durable solutions.

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2. The Special Rapporteur pays tribute to Francis Deng, the Representative of the Secretary-General on internally displaced persons for the period 1992-2004, and Walter Kälin, the Representative of the Secretary-General on the human rights of internally displaced persons from 2004 to 2010. He thanks them sincerely for their unreserved support during his tenure as Special Rapporteur.

3. In the first section, the Special Rapporteur provides an overview of his activities over the reporting period and progress relating to key priorities that he had identified for his work. In the second section, he considers some major challenges and emerging issues for consideration by all stakeholders relating to the human rights of internally displaced persons.

4. The Special Rapporteur thanks the numerous entities that have supported and assisted his mandate during his tenure, including Member States, United Nations agencies, international and national non-governmental organizations, civil society organizations and volunteer groups, academic and research organizations and numerous other stakeholders. He is grateful for the support provided by the Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights (OHCHR). In order to maximize its impact, the mandate also relies on the additional support provided by the Office for the Coordination of Humanitarian Affairs and the Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR), with which he has built fruitful and effective partnerships. Memorandums of understanding with both offices have enabled the flow of information and exchange of expertise and initiatives and have allowed additional mandate support staff to be located in both offices.

II. Activities of the Special Rapporteur

10. In its resolution 23/8, the Human Rights Council mandated the Special Rapporteur to address internal displacement, in particular by mainstreaming the human rights of internally displaced persons into all relevant parts of the United Nations system, strengthening the international response to internal displacement, engaging in coordinated international advocacy and action for improving protection and respect of the human rights of such persons, and continuing and enhancing dialogue with Governments, intergovernmental, regional and non-governmental organizations and other relevant actors.

World Humanitarian Summit

13. The Special Rapporteur considers the World Humanitarian Summit, to be held in Istanbul in May 2016, to be a unique and timely opportunity to refocus attention on the situation of internally displaced persons and explore new approaches to protection and assistance at the national and international levels. He welcomes the report of the Secretary-General for the World Humanitarian Summit, entitled "One Humanity: Shared Responsibility"[1] and its timely and critical call to set a target to reduce new and protracted internal displacement by 50 per cent by 2030, monitored through targets and indicators. The Special Rapporteur emphasizes that this must be achieved through securing durable solutions that are sustainable and through prevention of new displacement.

14. This important call for action will require the development of prevention and response strategies and national action plans recognizing that national Governments have the primary responsibility for the protection of internally displaced persons. Of particular importance is the focus of the Summit on obtaining high-level commitments by Member States. The Special Rapporteur supports the call of the Secretary-General for humanitarian and development actors to work together differently and collaboratively towards collective outcomes in the measurable reduction of displacement and achieving durable solutions for such persons.

15. The Special Rapporteur participated in Summit preparation events, attending three regional consultations for West and Central Africa in Côte d'Ivoire on 19 and 20 June 2014, for the Middle East and North Africa in Jordan from 3 to 5 March 2015 and for Latin America in Guatemala from 5 to 7 May 2015, and the global consultation held in Geneva from 14 and 16 October 2015. In January 2016, he attended the African Union Summit in Addis Ababa and participated in an event aimed at galvanizing African leaders to continue their engagement in the Summit preparation process and to strengthen dialogue among African States. He urged enhanced attention to internal displacement, including through implementation of the African Union Convention for the Protection and Assistance of Internally Displaced Persons in Africa (the Kampala Convention).

B. Engagement with countries

16. In accordance with his mandate, the Special Rapporteur has consistently engaged with States and has sought constructive and transparent dialogue with them. He thanks the many States that he has engaged with or visited for their cooperation. During his tenure as mandate holder, and up until March 2016, he conducted 15 official missions to Azerbaijan, Côte d'Ivoire, Georgia, Haiti, Honduras, Iraq, Kenya, the Maldives, the Philippines, South Sudan, Sri Lanka, the Sudan, the Syrian Arab Republic and Ukraine. The Special Rapporteur also visited Serbia and Kosovo.[2] Before the end of his mandate, agreements have also been reached to make official visits to Afghanistan and Nigeria. Other official visits have been requested by the Special Rapporteur to Colombia and Mexico, and he encourages those countries to respond favourably to his requests.

17. The Special Rapporteur has conducted working visits and follow-up visits to numerous countries during his tenure as mandate holder. During the reporting period, he conducted working visits to the African Union in Ethiopia, and to Kenya, South Sudan, Uganda and Zambia between 17 August and 26 September 2015, in order to consult with

[1] http://sgreport.worldhumanitariansummit.org.

[2] All references to Kosovo in the present document should be understood to be in compliance with Security Council resolution 1244 (1999) and without prejudice to the status of Kosovo.

the Governments of those States, the United Nations and other stakeholders on progress in implementing the Kampala Convention. Before the end of his mandate, he also plans to make working and follow-up visits to Azerbaijan, Burundi, the Democratic Republic of the Congo, Georgia, Haiti, Honduras, Kenya, Mexico, Nigeria and Ukraine.

Iraq

18. The Special Rapporteur undertook an official visit to Iraq from 9 to 15 May 2015.[3] The humanitarian situation of internally displaced persons is grave and strengthening humanitarian assistance and protection must be a high priority. New waves of displacement have increased the pressure on the Government and already overstretched humanitarian partners. Violence perpetrated by the so-called Islamic State in Iraq and the Levant (ISIL) appears to be part of a systematic strategy to remove some ethnic and religious communities permanently from areas where they have lived for centuries.

19. The Government must intensify its efforts to protect and assist internally displaced persons on the basis of legal and policy frameworks, conforming to international standards, established to better meet the immediate, medium-term and long-term needs and human rights of such persons. Despite being a middle-income country, the resources of Iraq have diminished and additional donor funding is required to help alleviate the human suffering of internally displaced persons and make progress towards durable solutions for them. The international community must remain a consistent and reliable humanitarian and development partner.

Syrian Arab Republic

20. From 16 to 19 May 2015, the Special Rapporteur visited the Syrian Arab Republic. The conflict has caused more than half of the Syrian population to flee their homes, both as internally displaced persons and refugees. Without urgent action to end the conflict hundreds of thousands more are likely to be internally displaced. The extent of the protection and humanitarian needs is overwhelming. While many have made the decision to seek safety outside the country, many who remain internally displaced or besieged in the Syrian Arab Republic are at the greatest risk of violence and violation of their human rights.

21. It is imperative that internally displaced persons receive the attention and protection which they so urgently require within the Syrian Arab Republic. The main responsibility for such persons lies with the Government, however all parties to the conflict must fulfil their responsibilities under international law and relevant standards. Consistent and coordinated responses are required by the Government working in partnership and ensuring free and unfettered access to all affected areas by humanitarian actors. Equally, livelihoods, education and early recovery programmes for internally displaced persons should be stepped-up.

The Philippines

22. The Special Rapporteur undertook an official visit to the Philippines from 21 to 31 July 2015.[4] Typhoon Haiyan caused the death of thousands and displaced more than 4 million people. The Government has made significant progress in providing transitional homes for internally displaced persons and restoring infrastructure. Progressive policies, such as the "build back better" initiative, seek to mitigate the impact of future events,

[3] See A/HRC/32/35/Add.1.
[4] See A/HRC/32/35/Add.3.

recognizing that the Philippines is on the front line of the adverse effects of climate change-related extreme weather events. However, over two years on, attention to internally displaced persons and resources allocated to them appear to be waning. Many lack adequate housing and access to basic services, water, sanitation and electricity.

23. A law on the rights of internally displaced persons has been debated for over a decade without adoption, which sends the wrong signal about the commitment of the Government. In Mindanao, multiple displacement due to conflict and disaster has become the common pattern in some localities. Intensified efforts are required to achieve lasting peace and provide durable solutions for internally displaced persons. Armed conflict, extractive and logging activities and development projects in the ancestral territories of indigenous peoples (Lumads) have had a devastating impact, displacing them and subjecting them to violations of their human rights that threaten their unique communities, cultures and lifestyles.

Honduras

24. From 23 to 27 November 2015, the Special Rapporteur conducted an official mission to Honduras.[5] Internal displacement caused by generalized violence and criminal gangs known as *maras*, is an invisible epidemic affecting whole communities. Gang-related murders are commonplace, while extortion puts every small business owner at risk in some neighbourhoods. Families under threat abandon their homes. As there are few viable options that provide safety, security and livelihood in Honduras, internally displaced persons with protection needs become "migrants in orbit" and face exploitation from human traffickers and smugglers. Labelled "economic migrants" by countries of transit and destination, they face expedited deportation that does not take account of their genuine protection concerns.

25. The Government must strengthen legal, policy and institutional frameworks and take comprehensive action to tackle the root causes of displacement and protect the rights of internally displaced persons. Providing support and viable options for local integration or resettlement should form part of a strategy of durable solutions for such persons. Priorities must include tackling impunity and rebuilding trust in institutions, including the police and criminal justice system, which has been deeply eroded. The Special Rapporteur welcomed an undertaking by the Government to draft a law on internal displacement during 2016.

C. Progress towards key internal displacement priorities

26. At the end of 2014, there were 38 million persons displaced by conflict, generalized violence and human rights violations, and 11 million were newly displaced during the year. This represented an overall increase of 4.7 million people compared with 2013, when 33.3 million were internally displaced.[6] Some 60 per cent of the newly displaced were in five countries: Iraq, South Sudan, the Syrian Arab Republic, the Democratic Republic of the Congo and Nigeria. Massive forced displacement was caused by the conflict in Ukraine, where internal displacement is at risk of becoming protracted. The geographical spread of displacement demonstrates that all regions can be affected and calls for global measures of

[5] See A/HRC/32/35/Add.4.

[6] See Internal Displacement Monitoring Centre, *Global Overview 2015: People internally displaced by conflict and violence* (Geneva, 2015). Available from www.internal-displacement.org/assets/library/Media/201505-Global-Overview-2015/20150506-global-overview-2015-en.pdf.

prevention, preparedness, risk assessments, better data collection and integrated humanitarian and development action.

27. UNHCR confirmed the negative trends, stating that wars, conflict and persecution have forced more people to flee their homes than at any other time since records began.[7] Worldwide, displacement was at the highest level ever recorded, with the number of people forcibly displaced at the end of 2014 reaching 59.5 million, compared with 51.2 million a year earlier and 37.5 million a decade ago. Globally, one in every 122 humans is a refugee, internally displaced person or seeking asylum. Every day in 2014, on average 42,500 people became refugees, asylum seekers or internally displaced persons, a four-fold increase in just four years.

28. The current unprecedented level of displacement covers both new and old situations, which must not be neglected. The overall magnitude of the problem also points to the continuing phenomenon of protracted internal displacement, which has not been solved and for which durable solutions and regional and international cooperation are necessary, for example, in Azerbaijan, Colombia, the Democratic Republic of the Congo, Georgia. This is also the case in Serbia and Kosovo.[2]

29. Internal displacement due to natural disaster has shown upward trends, while extreme weather events associated with the adverse effects of climate change are more frequent and cause higher levels of displacement. The Internal Displacement Monitoring Centre estimates that more than 19.3 million people were forced to flee their homes by disasters in 100 countries in 2014.[8] Hundreds of thousands remain displaced following disasters in previous years. On average, 26.4 million people have been displaced by disasters every year since 2008, equivalent to one person every second.

30. In 2015, in its resolution 70/165, the General Assembly encouraged the Special Rapporteur to continue to explore the human rights implications and dimensions of disaster-induced internal displacement, with a view to supporting Member States in their efforts to build local resilience and capacity to prevent displacement or to provide assistance and protection to those forced to flee. The Special Rapporteur calls for greater synergy in protection and assistance to disaster-related internally displaced persons and disaster-related cross-border displaced persons, on the basis of the protection agenda that was elaborated in 2015 by the Nansen Initiative and endorsed by over 100 countries.[9]

1. Achieving durable solutions for internally displaced persons

31. In 2013, following consultations with stakeholders, the Special Rapporteur focused particularly on achieving durable solutions for internally displaced persons and promoting the Inter-Agency Standing Committee Framework on Durable Solutions for Internally Displaced Persons.[10] Globally, too many internally displaced persons continue to live in protracted displacement situations in which progress towards durable solutions has stalled. There remains a generally weak understanding of durable solutions and neglect in implementing them. The closure of camps, cash payments or return without required

[7] See UNHCR, *Global Trends 2014: World at War* (Geneva, 2015). Available from http://unhcr.org/556725e69.html.

[8] See Internal Displacement Monitoring Centre, *Global Estimates 2015: People displaced by disasters*, p. 8 (Geneva, 2015). Available from www.internal-displacement.org/assets/library/Media/201507-globalEstimates-2015/20150713-global-estimates-2015-en-v1.pdf.

[9] See www.nanseninitiative.org/.

[10] See Brookings Institution – University of Bern Project on Internal Displacement, *Inter-Agency Standing Committee Framework on Durable Solutions for Internally Displaced Persons* (Washington, D.C., 2010). Available from www.unhcr.org/50f94cd49.pdf.

support are frequently considered adequate by Governments to declare a displacement situation solved, when it is not. Even where return or resettlement has taken place, much remains to be done to reach durable solutions in many country situations.

32. It is the primary responsibility of Governments to provide durable solutions that can only be achieved when internally displaced persons no longer have any specific assistance and protection needs that are linked to their displacement and can enjoy their human rights without discrimination on account of their displacement.[11] Such solutions, whether they involve return, local integration or settlement elsewhere in the country, require national leadership, strong political will and commitment. They must be anchored in national legal and policy frameworks, yet frequently in practice they are not in place or not implemented. States frequently see return to places of origin as the primary or only solution, neglecting the fact that, in conflict situations, local integration or resettlement may be the preferred or more viable options, and essential to unlocking protracted displacement.

33. The Special Rapporteur has consistently encouraged new and innovative approaches by States and the international community to achieving durable solutions, including stronger engagement with and by development partners, among other actors, in internal displacement situations from an early stage. This early engagement of development partners remains essential to building resilience, integrating humanitarian and development activities to ensure there is no "gap", and ensuring that internally displaced persons are the targets and beneficiaries of development processes and assistance. In section three of the present report, the Special Rapporteur highlights the need for early recovery and resilience-building as transitional steps, even in crisis situations and protracted internal displacement situations, where there are obstacles to achieving durable solutions.

34. Some positive processes to support durable solutions are under way. The creation of the Solutions Alliance in April 2014 marked an important step forward in efforts to address protracted displacement through innovative, partnership-orientated approaches. Working through sustained strategic engagement in displacement situations, including Somalia, Uganda, the United Republic of Tanzania and Zambia, national groups seek to apply expertise and theoretical and practical approaches to displacement settings, forming long-term partnerships with national Governments and other stakeholders. Its resources and capacity should be bolstered to allow it to engage effectively with internal displacement in more country situations globally.

35. The Special Rapporteur, in collaboration with the Joint IDP Profiling Service,[12] initiated the project entitled "Informing responses to support durable solutions for internally displaced persons" to promote the implementation of the Framework on Durable Solutions for Internally Displaced Persons. Its goal is to support Governments and humanitarian and development actors to pursue an evidence-based joint response to support displaced persons and achieve durable solutions. Drawing on experience from multiple displacement situations, and with an inter-agency group of technical steering committee members, the project will develop and consolidate a set of agreed indicators to operationalize the Framework, as well as tools and guidance for their use in displacement contexts. These activities will contribute to country-level durable solutions analysis and responses, as well

[11] The Special Rapporteur has provided analysis and recommendations for States and other stakeholders relating to durable solutions in his reports to the General Assembly, notably in his 2013 report (A/68/225), in which he addressed the role of humanitarian and development actors in achieving durable solutions through peacebuilding in the aftermath of conflict; his 2014 report (A/69/295) on achieving durable solutions for internally displaced persons in urban settings; and his 2015 report (A/70/334) on governance structures for internal displacement.

[12] See www.jips.org.

as the work of the technical working group on durable solutions of the Solutions Alliance and the Global Cluster on Early Recovery. In January 2016, a workshop was held in Geneva and, in March 2016, the first phase of the project was finalized with the commitment of partners to continue their collaboration.[13]

36. From 4 to 6 April 2016, the Special Rapporteur attended a forum on new approaches to protracted forced displacement, coorganized by the World Bank, UNHCR and the Department for International Development of the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland, held at Wilton Park, United Kingdom. The forum was an ideal model for the engagement of humanitarian and development actors with real country situations to provide creative and innovative approaches to protracted displacement. The Special Rapporteur emphasized the need for stronger national protection systems for internally displaced persons in their countries while respecting their right to leave their country or seek asylum. He proposed concrete measures, including developing multi-year and multipartner frameworks to achieve clear outcomes; establishing legislation, policies and strategies to support the protection of internally displaced persons; and giving greater priority to building self-reliance and resilience.

2. Promoting the African Union Convention for the Protection and Assistance of Internally Displaced Persons in Africa (the Kampala Convention).

37. When he assumed his mandate in 2010, the Special Rapporteur stated that a key priority during his tenure would be to promote the implementation of the Kampala Convention. The Convention was designed and adopted as a tool to deal with the issues of internal displacement in Africa. He dedicated a thematic report to the Human Rights Council on the Convention in 2014,[14] in which he provided a comprehensive series of recommendations aimed at its implementation.

38. Internal displacement figures and trends in sub-Saharan Africa and parts of North Africa reveal a bleak picture and reflect ongoing and new conflicts. Massive new displacement and protracted crises in countries such as Burundi, the Central African Republic, the Democratic Republic of the Congo, Libya, Nigeria, South Sudan, Somalia and the Sudan further demonstrate the critical need for action. At the end of 2014, 11.4 million people were displaced across 22 countries in sub-Saharan Africa, representing over one third of all internally displaced persons worldwide.[15] In some cases, responses such as camp closures or returns cannot be considered as constituting appropriate durable solutions for internally displaced persons.

39. The Special Rapporteur continued to engage the African Union on the promotion, ratification and implementation of the Convention. As at February 2016, it had been signed by 40 and ratified by 25 of the 54 member States. Among the most recent ratifications have been Côte d'Ivoire, the Democratic Republic of the Congo, Djibouti and Mauritania. The Special Rapporteur urges all African Union member States to ratify the Convention.

40. Those States that have ratified the Convention must go further to implement it in practice. Recent positive steps by some countries include the development of national legislation, policies and measures to domesticate the Convention. The Central African Republic has a new draft law on internally displaced persons, Nigeria is working to adopt a draft national policy and Zambia has taken steps towards incorporating the Convention in domestic legislation. Although not a party to the Convention, Kenya has introduced comprehensive legislation on internally displaced persons, based on the Protocol on the

[13] See www.jips.org/en/profiling/durable-solutions/measuring-progress-towards-solutions.
[14] A/HRC/26/33.
[15] See Internal Displacement Monitoring Centre, *Global Overview 2015*, p. 8.

Protection and Assistance to Internally Displaced Persons, adopted at the 2006 International Conference on the Great Lakes Region. The Special Rapporteur urges States to put in place national action plans to honour their commitments under such regional standards. His mandate remains available to provide technical assistance to them in that regard.

41. It is of utmost importance to operationalize the Convention. A conference of States parties is urgently required in 2016 to establish a secretariat of the States parties and to adopt a framework of implementation and operationalization. The Special Rapporteur calls for international support to that end. He emphasizes the value of sharing experiences and good practices between countries, to foster Africa-wide solidarity to achieve durable solutions for internally displaced persons.

42. The designation by the African Union of 2016 as "African Year of Human Rights" provides a further opportunity for the continent to address the considerable human rights challenges posed by internal displacement, and to take concrete action to confront them. The year has a special focus on the rights of women in Africa, and the Special Rapporteur urges particular attention to be given to displaced women. He highlights the recommendations contained in his report to the Human Rights Council on internally displaced women in 2013.[16]

43. The Kampala Convention stands as a model of good practice for other regions. The Special Rapporteur urges other regional organizations to strengthen their activities to prevent and reduce internal displacement, including through the elaboration of new regional standards. In regional consultations ahead of the World Humanitarian Summit, the importance of formulating regional frameworks on internally displaced persons was emphasized, and regional organizations were urged to make commitments in the context of the Summit. In January 2016, the Special Rapporteur attended an international meeting on human rights in the Arab world, resulting in the inclusion of such persons in the outcome of the meeting — an important step in the region's build-up to the Summit.

III. Major challenges and emerging issues in the field of internal displacement

44. The Special Rapporteur highlights below some issues that have consistently emerged over the course of his work and country visits and that he considers require greater attention by national Governments and the international community.

A. Integrating early recovery and resilience-building in ongoing and protracted displacement situations

45. Recent displacement crises have demonstrated once again the links between internal displacement situations, the rights of internally displaced persons and the processes leading to refugee and migrant movements across borders. Internally displaced persons and refugees are often driven from their homes by similar circumstances and, for some people, internal displacement may be followed by cross-border displacement. Among the key reasons for further movement across borders are the failure of national protection systems and the lack of prospects for internally displaced persons to find solutions in their country of origin. While the nexus between internally displaced persons and refugees and that between internally displaced persons and migrants demand greater attention, it must be recalled that the majority of persons forcibly displaced by conflict and violence move and

[16] A/HRC/23/44.

seek solutions within their countries, and internal displacement is a critical humanitarian issue in itself rather than the first stage in a migration journey.

46. The nexus between internally displaced persons and refugees has been particularly evident recently in the context of the conflicts in the Syrian Arab Republic and Iraq. They have been characterized by extreme violence and disregard for the lives and human rights of civilian populations, including by ISIL, and the failure of Governments to fulfil their protection and assistance commitments. Other protracted conflict situations, including in Afghanistan, the Central African Republic, South Sudan and the Sudan have resulted in similar situations of protracted displacement, which contributes to cross-border flight.

47. While in some crisis situations the threat to life is so grave that seeking asylum outside the country is the only safe option, much more must be done to protect and support internally displaced persons and give them viable options to achieve safety in their own countries where that is their desire. In protracted displacement situations, national and international attention to affected persons frequently wanes over time and personal resources may dwindle along with national and international assistance funding. Even in situations of relative physical safety, they may be trapped in a protracted limbo existence of basic shelter and aid dependency and will inevitably seek alternative options and consider crossing international borders.

48. The improved integration of humanitarian and development efforts at the onset of displacement is essential to building resilience and self-reliance, both of which are key elements leading to durable solutions within a rights-based and protection approach. New approaches to protracted displacement require that early recovery be integrated by both humanitarian and development actors. As stated in the Framework on Durable Solutions for Internally Displaced Persons, early recovery is a multidimensional process that begins in a humanitarian setting. It is guided by development principles that seek to build on humanitarian programmes and catalyse sustainable development opportunities. It aims to generate self-sustaining, nationally owned, resilient processes for post-crisis recovery. It encompasses the restoration of basic services, livelihoods, shelter, governance, security and the rule of law, and environmental and social dimensions, including the reintegration of displaced populations.

49. There is scope to enhance and strengthen transitional solutions that are aimed at improving living standards and livelihoods, while such measures must not be mistaken for durable solutions. In situations of protracted displacement in particular, greater attention and resources dedicated to transition and resilience-building measures have been demonstrated to provide income, self-reliance and dignity, a sense of stability and normality and a foundation upon which to progress towards durable solutions. This shift away from dependency can provide hope for the future with a view to providing self-empowerment and rebuilding the lives of internally displaced persons in their countries, and re-establishing livelihoods.

50. During his visit to the Syrian Arab Republic in May 2015, the Special Rapporteur witnessed initiatives to assist local integration and build resilience, early recovery and livelihoods for internally displaced persons and host communities. In total, the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP) and local partners supported more than 100 livelihood-related projects that targeted the affected governorates as well as host communities, recognizing the heavy burden on them of hosting internally displaced persons. In 2014 and 2015, UNDP succeeded in reaching a total of 4.5 million affected persons who were directly or indirectly affected by the projects.

51. The projects included emergency employment, restoration and stabilization of disrupted livelihoods, emergency support to vulnerable groups, capacity development, advocacy and technical assistance. They included the restoration of small businesses,

including food production and processing, small scale manufacturing, debris and waste removal, re-establishing markets and stimulating local economies by encouraging local production and procurement. Vocational training was provided through entrepreneurship promotion activities, with a special focus on vulnerable groups, including female-headed households, persons with disabilities and young people.[17] The monitoring and documentation of such programmes is necessary to ensure that they improve self-reliance in a sustainable way.

52. Although they require initial funds and resources, such projects can become self-sustaining and income-generating and may provide a stepping stone towards the local integration of internally displaced persons and help to rebuild local economies. UNDP notes that such projects can strengthen capacities to cope with the shocks and negative impacts of a crisis. Internally displaced persons may be able to move out of collective shelters into rented accommodation and reduce their reliance on humanitarian assistance, therefore allowing such assistance to be targeted elsewhere. They can contribute to building social cohesion and assisting local integration. Various social groups may be involved in common activities that can build a sense of community. They may strengthen the capacity of and empower local civil society partners to maintain projects and replicate them in different locations. Working with local partners helps to shift the focus of projects away from the distribution of aid towards the delivery of services and the building of local resilience, by helping people to enhance their positive coping mechanisms.[18]

53. A key message to States and the international community is that it is necessary to maintain and enhance attention to internally displaced persons beyond the realm of emergency humanitarian responses and to transition towards self-reliance as soon as possible, even in situations of protracted conflict in which achieving durable solutions is deemed impossible. The challenge remains to bridge the relief-to-development gap and ensure that development actors are engaged early on in crisis and displacement situations. Early recovery, resilience and livelihood initiatives envisage an early engagement and response by the development community at a stage when humanitarian partners are still fulfilling an essential role.

54. The potential of the Global Cluster on Early Recovery to help internally displaced persons move beyond aid dependency has yet to be fulfilled. The early recovery and livelihood sector is consistently neglected and underfunded. A Brookings Institution report[19] found that, in three countries studied with protracted displacement, namely, Somalia, Colombia, and the Democratic Republic of the Congo, the early recovery cluster was not active, despite obvious opportunities for early recovery programmes. The appropriate approach is to improve the incorporation at the very beginning of early recovery principles and programmes into other sectors, such as protection, food, shelter, health, education, and livelihoods, as this provides the impetus to achieving durable solutions.

55. A frequent challenge is to overcome the traditional relief-to-development gap, progress towards which is constrained by frequent severe funding shortfalls in the area of early recovery. An integrated approach involving humanitarian and development partners

[17] See United Nations Development Programme, *365 Days of Resilience in Syria* (2014). Available from http://www.sy.undp.org/content/syria/en/home/library/poverty/365-days-of-resilience-in-syria.html.

[18] Ibid.

[19] See Brookings-London School of Economics Project on Internal Displacement, *Ten years after the humanitarian reform: how have IDPs fared?*, p. 23 (Washington, D.C., 2014). Available from www.brookings.edu/~/media/research/files/papers/2014/12/29-idp-humanitarian-reform-reports/introduction-to-final-report-idp-study-final.pdf.

would overcome such shortfalls, with mid- to long-term planning, harmonization of funding cycles and early investment in resilience and self-sustaining activities, including protection, throughout the entire cycle of displacement to durable solutions.

56. Humanitarian and development donors or partners should adjust or supplement their funding cycles to ensure integrated approaches to protection, resilience, self-reliance, sustainable livelihoods and durable solutions. This means that development actors should become engaged more equally and effectively and from an early stage in displacement situations and advocate more clearly for the funds and access to do so. Indeed, it is through partnerships and engagement with the local and national systems that development and humanitarian partners may achieve longer-term development measures conducive to durable solutions.

57. The primary responsibility of national Governments to take action towards achieving durable solutions for internally displaced persons must be emphasized, and they must fulfil that responsibility through legal, policy and institutional frameworks and appropriate budgeting and development programme measures, including national development plans. Too often, there is an overreliance on international partners to initiate and maintain sustainable livelihood projects, for example, that should fall under the responsibility of line ministries. States are often slow to implement such programmes, and stronger steps must be taken to ensure that they meet their commitments according to international standards.

B. Addressing neglected drivers of internal displacement globally

58. Despite the unprecedented global displacement figures, much internal displacement goes unacknowledged, unrecorded and is not responded to by Governments and the international community. Hundreds of thousands of those who are entitled to protection and assistance as internally displaced persons under international standards are left to fend for themselves. A protection gap exists for many internally displaced persons globally who are the victims of causes of displacement that include generalized and criminal violence, discrimination and other human rights violations, development projects and business activities, or other neglected factors. These factors result in internally displaced persons who are uniquely vulnerable, outside of camps or other support and assistance settings, hosted by local communities and families, and frequently "invisible" and impoverished in urban settings. Failure by Governments to identify them as internally displaced persons leaves many unable to access assistance and support. Denial or neglect of the problem of internal displacement often means that, at the national level, no protection or support mechanisms exist.

1. Internal displacement due to generalized and criminal violence

59. In some situations of generalized violence, persecution or human rights violations, for example, the internal displacement of individuals, families or targeted communities may be slower, small-scale, dispersed and less obvious than in some conflict situations. There are those who flee their homes but do not identify themselves as internally displaced persons owing to a lack of understanding about their rights or out of fear or a desire to remain anonymous. Equally, State authorities can fail to identify those persons as internally displaced owing to a lack of understanding or neglect of their pertinent obligations to assist and protect those displaced by generalized violence. The challenge exists to ensure that those who are unlawfully forced or coerced to leave their homes are identified as internally displaced persons and receive necessary assistance and protection.

60. A broad and inclusive approach to determining who is an internally displaced person is required under the Guiding Principles on Internal Displacement and the Kampala

Convention. In addition to situations of armed conflict and disaster-induced displacement, both standards explicitly apply to those displaced by generalized violence. The prohibition of arbitrary displacement includes displacement based on policies of apartheid, ethnic cleansing, racial discrimination or other similar practices aimed at or resulting in altering the ethnic, religious or racial composition of the affected population, as well as displacement caused by other violations of human rights or used as a collective punishment.

61. Generalized violence may be gang-related or criminal in nature, or may be violence targeted at minority ethnic, religious, political or other groups. It may be caused or triggered by specific events, such as elections, or it may be associated with development projects. It may affect a small group in a localized area or a large, widely dispersed community. Intimidation, harassment or the threat of violence may also trigger displacement. In some situations, the international community may recognize internal displacement situations while a national Government denies or downplays the situation. Consequently, political will to deal with internal displacement instead of denying it remains a vital component of appropriate national and international action, since acknowledgment of the issue within a particular context is the vital first step towards addressing it.

62. Many regions are affected by generalized violence resulting in internal displacement. For example, Central America, including the Northern Triangle countries of El Salvador, Guatemala and Honduras, is deeply affected by generalized and gang-related violence. The Special Rapporteur visited Honduras in November 2015 and found that displacement as a result of gang-related (*maras*) and generalized violence is widespread and there is an "invisible epidemic" affecting whole communities and neighbourhoods. For many, the only option to escape threats, extortion and violence by the *maras* is to leave their homes and, often, their country.[20] The Special Rapporteur commended the Government of Honduras for being the first in the region to publicly acknowledge the problem and to undertake an in-depth profiling to gain a better understanding of the situation. He urged it to put in place overdue protection measures for internally displaced persons.

63. Essential to national responses are legislative, policy and institutional frameworks that explicitly guarantee protection and assistance to internally displaced persons. Governments must be active in ensuring implementation and exhaustive in their activities to identify such persons who are victims of general or criminal violence and reach them with relevant information, documentation, protection and assistance linked to durable solutions. Where no protection measures exist, internally displaced persons often find protection in anonymity and become dispersed and "invisible", often within poor urban communities. Reaching them requires the flow of information and the establishment of such measures as helplines to inform people of their rights and the services available to them. Profiling can also be a practical, protection-sensitive tool for understanding the situation of these displaced communities to inform relevant responses.

64. All countries, particularly those in which there has been a history of violence, ethnic, religious or political tensions or other factors leading to population movements, should remain vigilant to the possibility of forced or arbitrary internal displacement due to general violence, even in the absence of armed conflict, and ensure that they respond appropriately and according to international standards to prevent and respond to such internal displacement. In this regard, social and statistical research should be undertaken to reveal

[20] To that end, the Special Rapporteur prepared reports on internally displaced persons who are out of camp and those in urban settings, with a view to adopting a policy position at the Inter-Agency Standing Committee, and indeed the Committee responded favourably to the initiative, which has to be taken forward.

the causes, extent and dynamics of displacement and to determine the profiles of victims. Following this, information campaigns should be considered to inform persons who may have been forcibly or arbitrarily displaced about their rights as internally displaced persons and protection and assistance measures available to them.

2. Internal displacement as a result of development projects and business activities

65. Greater attention to development-induced and business-related internal displacement is overdue and urgently required. The Special Rapporteur recognizes the sensitivities and that a balance must be drawn between the legitimate development needs and aspirations of national Governments and the human rights of those who are required to leave their homes. However, examples globally demonstrate that development projects and business activities are going ahead without due attention to the rights of affected persons.

66. International law and standards and national laws are sometimes given scant regard when approving development projects or granting business concessions that result in internal displacement. Often, there may be only a symbolic recognition of such standards, including the Guiding Principles on Internal Displacement. In other disturbing cases, development projects and agendas are pursued with the use of force and the forced displacement of communities from their lands and territories involving the use of military or paramilitary units, using threats, intimidation and killings.

67. It is telling that there is a relative lack of national, regional and global figures of those internally displaced by development and business enterprises and attention to the phenomenon in comparison to conflict and disaster-induced displacement. Some research has put the number of persons displaced by development at as many as 15 million annually.[21] Closely associated with economic development patterns, development-induced displacement may increase in countries moving from developing to developed and from low- to middle- or high-income, owing to factors including the exploitation of previously untapped natural resources, increasing energy or water requirements, urbanization and population redistribution policies. Development and displacement may take place without necessary legal safeguards, to the detriment rather than benefit of those displaced.

68. While displacement due to development is commonly associated with major projects, such as dams, numerous activities cause displacement annually, including mining and extractive industries, logging, pipelines, national parks and conservation projects, port or military installations, sports projects and events, industrial plants and urbanization and infrastructure projects. Small-scale development projects can be just as damaging as larger-scale projects and are often harder to identify and monitor. While some projects meet international standards of consultation prior to displacement and compensation, resettlement and rehabilitation when displacement takes place, many fail to do so. Those affected are often poor, belong to marginalized or indigenous groups and lack political representation or an equal voice in decision-making.

69. Under Principle 6 of the General Guiding Principles, the prohibition of arbitrary displacement includes displacement caused by "cases of large-scale development projects, which are not justified by compelling and overriding public interests". As in all cases of international human rights law, such justification would be subject to proportionality and a

[21] See B. Terminski, *Environmentally-Induced Displacement. Theoretical Frameworks and Current Challenges* (Liege, 2012); M.M. Cernea, "Development-induced and conflict-induced internally displaced persons: bridging the research divide", *Forced Migration Review*, Special Issue (December, 2006); and A. Oliver-Smith (ed.), *Development and Dispossession: The Crisis of Forced Displacement and Resettlement* (School for Advanced Research Advanced Seminar, Santa Fe, New Mexico, 2009).

pressing social need. In addition, under Principle 9 of the General Guiding Principles, there is a particular international obligation for States to protect against the displacement of indigenous peoples, minorities, peasants, pastoralists and other groups with a special dependency on and attachment to their lands.

70. The Kampala Convention calls upon States Parties to "endeavour to protect communities with special attachment to, and dependency, on land due to their particular culture and spiritual values from being displaced from such lands, except for compelling and overriding public interests". It requires States to "ensure the accountability of non-State actors concerned, including multinational companies and private military or security companies, for acts of arbitrary displacement or complicity in such acts" and to "ensure the accountability of non-State actors involved in the exploration and exploitation of economic and natural resources leading to displacement". International standards relating to the operations of business enterprises, including the 2011 Guiding Principles on Business and Human Rights, require States and businesses to comply with all applicable laws and to respect human rights.

71. Development and business-related activities can create or exacerbate complex displacement scenarios. The rights of some communities, including indigenous or minority communities, such as their rights to the land on which their identity rests, can prove inconvenient in the face of development or economic interests. Militarization of areas allocated for resource development has been evident, with some companies using private military or security companies to enforce their encroachment onto some territories. Tactics to divide communities or bypass and undermine local leadership structures have been employed and may involve corrupt practices or payments that lead to breakdown of the social fabric of communities.

72. It is essential to establish national legal and policy frameworks relating to development, land and non-State actors that intersect with and complement legal provisions relating to internal displacement and the rights of internally displaced persons, and conform to international standards. For example, the International Labour Organization Indigenous and Tribal Peoples Convention, 1989 (No. 169) relates to the rights of indigenous and tribal peoples and incorporates the right to free, prior and informed consent for indigenous peoples. Articles 6, 7 and 9 of the Convention establish that consent must be acquired before indigenous communities are relocated or before development is undertaken on their land. Where displacement is approved or agreed to following an appropriate and rigorous consultation and participatory process, internally displaced persons must be provided with appropriate compensation, support and durable solutions in line with international standards.

73. This is not often the case; compensation is often pitiful and unable to sustain livelihoods and the responsibility to ensure that development-induced displacement leads to a durable solution by relocation or settlement elsewhere in the country is avoided. Development-induced displacement and resettlement processes have resulted in landlessness, joblessness, homelessness, marginalization, food insecurity, increased morbidity and mortality, loss of access to common property and ancestral lands and social disintegration, and have a cumulative impact seen in massive impoverishment[22] and even death.

[22] See Michael M. Cernea "Risks, Safeguards and Reconstruction: A Model for Population Displacement and Resettlement", in M. Cernea and McDowell (eds.), *Risks and Reconstruction: Experiences of Resettlers and Refugees*, pp. 11-55 (World Bank, Washington, D.C., 2000).

74. The 2007 Basic principles and guidelines on development-based evictions and displacement[23] provide valuable guidance in addressing the human rights implications of development-linked evictions and related displacement. They provide practical guidance to States on measures and procedures to be taken in order to ensure that development-based evictions are not undertaken in contravention of existing international human rights standards and do not thus constitute "forced evictions". The guidelines also focus on effective remedies for those whose human rights have been violated, should prevention measures fail. Independent human rights and environmental impact assessments of development and business activities likely to cause displacement should be conducted at the earliest opportunity, with their findings informing a legal project approval process and resettlement and rehabilitation programmes.

75. The 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development can give new impetus to attempts to ensure that development is conducted responsibly and takes into account the impact on those displaced. It requires that the development activities are implemented in a manner that is consistent with the rights and obligations of States under international law, including human rights law and standards. It is important that this new global development agenda is not interpreted as giving States a green light to pursue development without due consideration to human rights and the costs to those who own or occupy the lands on which development projects may take place. The pledge by States to "leave no one behind", including internally displaced persons, also requires that those who are displaced by development projects and other triggers benefit from and are the target of development programmes.

3. Recognizing the vulnerability of disadvantaged and marginalized groups to internal displacement

76. In some situations, internal displacement disproportionately affects certain communities that, due to their characteristics, geographical location, poverty, discrimination or other unique circumstances, make them particularly vulnerable to internal displacement. Such groups may include indigenous peoples and ethnic, religious or other minorities, who are frequently numerically few relative to majority communities, among the poorest, and who may experience different forms of marginalization and commonly lack representation in political or other State bodies. In some cases they may face long-standing discrimination and violence targeted against them. Such population groups are often overrepresented in internally displaced person populations.

77. These and other factors may make certain marginalized communities vulnerable to violent displacement in situations of conflict and intercommunity or interfaith tensions or result in their being poorly equipped to resist efforts to displace them from their lands due to development or business activities. Greater research and data is required globally to reveal the full impact of displacement on such communities, as well as regional trends, patterns and dynamics of displacement. In particular, this makes it necessary to disaggregate data not only by sex and age but also by diversity categories, such as ethnicity and religion, that should be determined by contextual realities. Such information, fully adhering to international standards of data protection and use, would help to predict and prevent displacement targeted against certain communities and contribute to much needed displacement risk assessment and early warning mechanisms.

78. In the Syrian Arab Republic and Iraq, visited by the Special Rapporteur in May 2015, the targeting of Christians, Yazidi and other smaller ethnic and religious communities by the so-called ISIL has been evident and well documented. They have experienced

[23] See www.ohchr.org/Documents/Issues/Housing/Guidelines_en.pdf.

targeted violence and displacement on the basis of their belonging to certain ethnic or religious groups. In some cases, internal displacement may have been arbitrary, amounting to ethnic cleansing, crimes against humanity or atrocity crimes, and has included the cultural destruction of monuments and places of worship with the objective of permanently removing communities from those regions. Equally, in numerous other regions, discrimination against certain groups in society may reach such levels that it results in hate-based crimes and internal displacement that does not take place in a context of armed conflict.

79. Vulnerability to displacement may be heightened by discriminatory State policies or practices. Non-documentation, the denial or deprivation of citizenship for some ethnic or religious groups, for example, renders them stateless. Their rights as citizens are not fully recognized and they may be targeted, or not adequately protected, by national authorities. As highlighted in the Norwegian Refugee Council scoping paper on statelessness and displacement,[24] stateless persons are uniquely vulnerable including to internal displacement. Statelessness must be more clearly understood in the context of State policies of denial of legal status that impacts on particular marginalized communities.

80. The Special Rapporteur has been struck by the vulnerability of indigenous peoples to internal displacement, including during his official visit to the Philippines, following which he highlighted the impact of displacement or threatened displacement on them. Indigenous peoples are severely affected by displacement given their ties to ancestral lands and may have more challenges in adopting coping mechanism for survival when displaced. The protection of the rights of indigenous peoples displaced or threatened by displacement must be strengthened in law and practice. Legal provisions on land rights and the rights of indigenous peoples should be fully implemented and specific provisions on the rights of indigenous peoples should be included in laws on internally displaced persons where appropriate.

81. In conflict- and disaster-related scenarios of displacement, discrimination and marginalization may continue to be a factor that adversely affects access by internally displaced persons to safety, protection and humanitarian assistance and durable solutions in some cases. The Framework on Durable Solutions for Internally Displaced Persons emphasized the centrality of non-discrimination to the concept and achievement of durable solutions. States, national human rights commissions and all humanitarian actors and development actors, and civil society, must ensure that all those in need are treated equitably and in a non-discriminatory manner, including with regard to access to protection and assistance, livelihood opportunities and the realization of durable solutions.

C. Restoring human agency to internally displaced persons through consultation, participation, profiling and information

82. The Special Rapporteur is concerned that his engagement with internally displaced persons in numerous country situations reveals a general lack of meaningful consultation with them; they lack a voice and, when they speak or claim their rights, they are not heard. Such persons frequently stated that they are poorly consulted, rarely visited by officials or provided with adequate information about the options available to them or plans being formulated for their shelter, locations or time frames for their return or resettlement. Internally displaced persons frequently stated that they lacked opportunities to participate in decisions affecting them. Consultation and participation is a right of those persons and is

[24] See Norwegian Refugee Council-Tilburg University, *Statelessness and Displacement, Scoping Paper* (May 2015). Available from www.nrc.no/arch/_img/9197390.pdf.

essential to ensuring that solutions for them are appropriate, informed, acceptable to communities and sustainable.

83. Significantly, reliable and comprehensive data on internally displaced persons is frequently lacking, hampering the ability of Governments and national and international partners to respond effectively and put in place immediate and longer-term support to meet their protection and assistance needs and durable solutions for them. Compiling and tracking data on internally displaced persons is challenging, particularly in complex situations in which displacement may be ongoing, or where they experience multiple displacement or are residing outside of camps. Improvements to these types of data and analysis must be made by Governments with the support of national and international partners.

84. Consultation, participation and information provision activities must engage widely with internally displaced persons, including women and female heads of households, young people, older persons and persons with disabilities. In-depth assessments, profiling and consultations help to reveal vulnerabilities, capacities and obstacles, essential to providing appropriate responses and durable solutions. Gathering data on those outside of camps has also proven extremely difficult, and there is a need to find creative solutions to ensure that they do not fall through protection and support nets. The Special Rapporteur's report on the issue to the Human Rights Council in 2012 notably focuses on addressing the causes of neglect of internally displaced persons outside camps through data collection.[25]

85. Recognition of internally displaced persons as holders of civil and political rights and economic, social and cultural rights is crucial. A human rights-based approach to internal displacement and humanitarian and development assistance to such persons requires assessments of their human rights on the basis of information that goes beyond basic displacement statistics and recognizes the unique circumstances, challenges and requirements of each individual, including women, older persons, persons with disabilities, minorities and others. It also requires a deeper level of engagement and consultation with internally displaced persons, allowing a more detailed understanding of needs, concerns and intentions and demonstrating respect for the human agency of those persons, as partners in a process of achieving solutions, rather than passive beneficiaries.

86. Sophisticated data gathering methodologies can and are being utilized in some displacement situations. However, they remain the exception rather than the standard. Detailed household surveys and profiling and assessment activities reveal vital information that can be used by a variety of actors in the design, implementation and monitoring of programmes. They may reveal perceptions relating to protection, for example, for those who have faced violence or are at risk of it, and can identify intentions to return or seek alternative solutions. Such data and surveys must be voluntary and meet international standards relating to data protection and personal security. In that regard, efforts are being led by the Danish Refugee Council and UNHCR to better define the discipline of protection information management and support operational decision-making.

87. The Special Rapporteur welcomes the work of the Joint IDP Profiling Service, an inter-agency project set up to help Governments, humanitarian and development agencies acquire, maintain and update reliable data and analysis on internal displacement situations, including population data, that is also disaggregated by sex, age, location and diversity. The Service recognizes that internally displaced persons are not a homogenous group and that appropriate, well-informed solutions must be based on a more complete picture of their characteristics and situations.

[25] See A/HRC/19/54, paras. 26 and 27.

88. Of increasing use in the field is the International Organization for Migration displacement tracking matrix, a tool for tracking and monitoring displacement and identifying locations where internally displaced persons settle. In addition, the REACH initiative was created in 2010 by the non-governmental organizations IMPACT and ACTED and the Operational Satellite Applications Programme of the United Nations Institute for Training and Research to facilitate the development of information tools and products that enhance the humanitarian community's decision-making and planning capacity.[26] REACH promotes better understanding of crisis-affected communities within settlements by collecting data in a systematic and comprehensive way, helping to provide the information required for designing, planning and evaluating aid- and evidence-based humanitarian action.

89. Importantly, local non-governmental organizations and volunteer organizations consistently demonstrate their value and importance in local support to internally displaced persons and often involve members of affected communities with strong ties to and knowledge of them. Policymakers should support, enhance the capacity of and work closely with such organizations to help them better understand and address the needs of internally displaced persons and displacement-affected communities, and to ensure that the views and wishes of those persons are heard and respected in decision making bodies.

IV. Conclusions and recommendations

90. **The overall picture of internal displacement globally in 2016 is alarming, with unprecedented numbers of internally displaced persons, ongoing and protracted situations in which progress towards durable solutions has stalled and massive new displacement crises that threaten to further deteriorate. The picture is in fact more dramatic than that presented by existing statistics, since these do not include causes of displacement, such as development projects and business activities and generalized and criminal violence. The situation constitutes a global crisis requiring bold, innovative and concerted action at all levels, from the local to the international levels, as well as new and enhanced partnerships and collaborations.**

91. **The United Nations and the international community must demonstrate their commitment to addressing internal displacement effectively. Enhancing the mandate of the Special Rapporteur to a Special Representative of the Secretary-General, with appropriate staff and resources to effectively address internal displacement within and outside the United Nations and in dialogue with Member States and all relevant stakeholders, would be a valuable step in that regard.**

92. **New approaches are required by the international community in collaboration with national Governments. However, the international system is already overstretched by the number of complex, large-scale internal displacement crises. With finite resources, the primary responsibility of national Governments to address internal displacement must be recalled, allowing international humanitarian and development partners to focus their efforts where they are needed most.**

93. **Raising awareness of neglected internal displacement situations in which internally displaced persons are unprotected and lack assistance, including displacement caused by generalized violence, discrimination and discriminatory policies, and development, should be a high priority of national Government and the international community.**

[26] See www.reach-initiative.org/reach/about-reach.

94. The role of development and business activities as a cause and driver of displacement must be given greater scrutiny. National Governments must ensure that they conform with all relevant international standards when conducting or licencing development or business activities that will result in the displacement of communities. Where development-induced displacement takes place, compensation, appropriate resettlement and rehabilitation measures undertaken in consultation with affected persons must be implemented and continued until durable solutions are achieved.

95. As many countries debate cross-border movements of "migrants" and asylum seekers, attention must refocus on the protection of internally displaced persons in their countries of origin and measures to support the integration of early recovery, livelihoods and resilience-building. Traditional emergency humanitarian assistance models provide little incentive to such persons or confidence for the future required for them to remain in their countries of origin. While humanitarian assistance is vital and lifesaving, simultaneous development activities are also necessary to sustain livelihoods by building programmes and durable solutions.

96. Renewed attention should be given to addressing the relief-to-development gap at the earliest phase of crisis response or development project planning, recognizing that crucial actions to build resilience and offer much needed security, incomes, hope and dignity can be achieved in the short term, enabling internally displaced persons to stay in their country. This will require new levels of collaboration, partnership and funding, underpinned by the genuine political will and resolve necessary to achieve real change for such persons.

97. A global shift towards the prevention of forced displacement and identifying and addressing the root causes of displacement at the earliest stage is required. In the area of conflict, there must be a strong reaffirmation by parties to the conflict to respect international humanitarian law. More must be done to identify communities at risk of violence and displacement and to put in place necessary prevention and protection measures at the earliest opportunity.

98. Disaster risk reduction and action to address climate change and its adverse effects in terms of internal displacement and other human rights issues must remain high on the international agenda. The Paris Agreement, reached after the twenty-first Conference of the Parties to the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change, is an essential step in the right direction that explicitly recognizes the need for individual and collective State action. That agreement must be implemented in practice by all parties.

99. National authorities should collect and share data on all causes of displacement in their country, including generalized and criminal violence and hate-based crimes, development and business activities. Equality and anti-discrimination laws and legal protection of minorities, indigenous peoples and other potentially vulnerable groups should be in place and include provisions relating to the prohibition of unlawful displacement.

100. An absence of legal protection and practical policy and programme responses is evident in many States experiencing internal displacement, whether owing to conflict, disasters, development or other causes. They should enact national laws in line with the Guiding Principles on Internal Displacement and other international standards, and institutional and policy frameworks to respond to internal displacement situations.

101. The Kampala Convention is vital in a region of massive and ongoing displacement crises; however, its implementation and operationalization must be galvanized in practice. Other regional organizations should take steps to establish

their own regional standards as a vital step towards guaranteeing the human rights of internally displaced persons and facilitating the adoption of national laws, policies and programmes.

102. While the figures are alarming and tell us much about the global internal displacement situation and trends, it is essential that we look beyond the statistics to recognize the human suffering behind them. In that regard, enhancing support to Governments to collect and analyse reliable and protection-sensitive information for evidence-based policy, programming and response is crucial. Media and political discourse often consigns the displaced, whether internal, refugees or migrants, as a collective, faceless problem to be resolved, rather than individuals and families whose lives, wishes and hopes matter.

103. Recognition of internally displaced persons as holders of civil and political rights and economic and social rights is crucial and requires human rights-based approaches. As such, all States must recognize, respect and protect the fundamental rights of such persons, including to be consulted, informed and to participate and exercise free choice in decisions affecting them, including decisions on whether to return to their places of origin or to choose to settle and integrate elsewhere.

104. The target of the Secretary-General to reduce internal displacement by fifty per cent by 2030, elaborated in his report "One Humanity: Shared Responsibility" in advance of the World Humanitarian Summit, should inspire all stakeholders to redouble their efforts and set an agenda for action to achieve this ambitious target, including through concrete commitments. It requires new approaches and innovative actions to achieve goals through sustainable, durable solutions, necessary indicators and effective prevention activities.